



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY &  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**CCJS 225: RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE  
SPRING 2022**

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

Name: Professor Dorsey

Pronouns: He, him, his

Email: [kdorsey4@umd.edu](mailto:kdorsey4@umd.edu)

\*\*\*It is super important that you take note of this email address. There are several different email addresses for me listed on various university web pages. However, this is the only UMD email account that I have access to\*\*\*

Office Hours: This semester, my office hours will be virtual and by appointment only. Please send me an email to schedule an appointment to meet with me. I will respond with my availability, and then you may select a day and time that works for you. I will send you a confirmation email and a Google Calendar invite with our meeting details along with my Zoom link.

**MASK POLICY**

County and University guidelines require all individuals to wear a KN95 mask, **regardless of vaccination status**. Any student not abiding by these expectations may be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct, Part 10(e)(3): Failure to comply with a directive of University officials. Masks must cover the student's mouth and nose, must be appropriate (no vulgar or explicit words or images, no gang-related symbolism, no hate speech or offensive language or symbolism). Masks must be actual masks and not just a cloth (no bandanas, no underwear, no ripped shirts, no homemade concoctions). In addition, according to the University's COVID-19 compliance guidelines, any student with an approved COVID-19 vaccination exemption must wear a mask at all times while indoors and outdoors when around others. These students must also be tested twice each week for COVID-19 and must sign the University Health Center's Memorandum to Unvaccinated Individuals.

**COURSE MEETING TIME**

This class will be held face-to-face, and will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00pm (EST) to 3:15pm (EST) in room 2309 of the Art-Sociology Building (ASY).

**REQUIRED TEXT**

The required textbook for Professor Dorsey's CCJS 225: Responses to Violence in Spring 2022 is Violence: The Enduring Problem (4th Edition) by Alex Alvarez & Ronet Bachman. Publisher: SAGE. ISBN: 9781544355658.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an I-Series course that engages students in critical reading, writing, discussion, and through formal presentations in groups. The purpose of the I-Series course is to facilitate a deep dive into important issues that face humanity. To that end, Responses to Violence uses an interdisciplinary approach to discuss historical, psychological, sociological, and criminological aspects of violence and the ways we respond to it as a species. Students will identify a type of violence at issue today and develop an intervention strategy based on the principles learned in this course as well as their own innovative spirit. The goal of this class is to teach students to use scientific innovation to develop creative solutions that might be ready for use in the near future or when the features that counter violence in our society have further evolved. After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Identify the major questions and issues about responding to violence in the U.S. and around the world.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic terms, concepts, and approaches that experts employ in developing and studying responses to violence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the political, social, economic, and ethical dimensions of violence and how humanity has responded to it.
- Communicate major ideas and issues about violence through effective written work and oral presentations.

## **SENSITIVE CONTENT DISCLAIMER**

Due to the nature of the material discussed in this course, some of the content that we talk about (or things that we watch when doing case studies) may contain explicit, graphic, and/or vulgar images and/or speech. Some of the topics that we discuss may generate some discomfort, such as assault, murder, rape, genocide, terrorism, slavery, child abuse, domestic violence, suicide, and racism. If you think that these topics would be triggering for you to talk about and/or learn about, I would encourage you to consider if this class is appropriate for you to stay enrolled in.

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

This class utilizes Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. To access Canvas, go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. Then, go to the “Modules” tab to see the assignments for each week. If you have any problems accessing your account, contact the support desk at 301-405-1400. You must be registered for the class to access the course website. The syllabus, extra reading material, class announcements, and grades will be posted on Canvas (ELMS). You are strongly encouraged to access Canvas on a regular basis as you are responsible for knowing the material posted on the website. It is critical that you enable announcement and email notifications for your ELMS account. You can do this by clicking on the “Account” tab once you are logged into ELMS. In the event you have difficulty with ELMS, contact the ELMS support desk at 301- 405-1500 and send me an email letting me know what has occurred.

### **COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL**

I will be available via email if you need to ask questions or would like to discuss the course material. Please email me directly using my [kdorsey4@umd.edu](mailto:kdorsey4@umd.edu) email address rather than via ELMS. I will be monitoring my email as often as possible and will make every effort to reply quickly. However, understand that I am also in meetings and have additional responsibilities as part of my job. In addition, it is important for you to understand that I will **not** be responding to emails outside of standard business hours on Mondays through Fridays. Please allow up to two full business days for a reply.

### **CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT**

The success of this class is dependent not only on my ability to convey new and complicated ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." This includes such things as leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, and pursuing side conversations during the course lecture. This also includes reading outside material, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using prohibited technological devices. Also, please note that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the grade you receive. Repeated tardiness to class lectures will also be considered disruptive and may influence your final grade. Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another or me will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

All technological devices are prohibited in this class including: laptops, tablets, MP3 devices, smart phones, phones, calculators, smart watches, gaming devices, recording devices, etc. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, you will be asked to leave class immediately. I understand and have considered arguments for permitting laptop and tablet computers in the classroom. However, in my experience (and based on the research evidence) the reality is that they present an irresistible distraction and detract from the cooperative learning environment. Researchers have found that these distractions do in fact interfere with learning and active participation. For that reason, the use of computers and phones will not be permitted during class meetings (except when required for ADS accommodations). I expect you to make the responsible and respectful decision to refrain from using your cellphone in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself and return when you are ready. For more information about the science behind the policy watch: <http://youtu.be/WwPaw3Fx5Hk>. In addition, you are not allowed to record the lectures (neither audio nor video recording) or take pictures of any of the course material (Power Point slides, quizzes, exams, etc.). The only exception to the use of technology policy is required accommodations through ADS.

## **COURSE GRADING**

Grades are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal. All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page.

Online Exams: 40%  
Quizzes: 15%  
Group Project: 25%  
Worksheets: 10%  
Participation: 10%

Percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

A+ (97-100%)	B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (67-69%)	F (<60%)
A (93-96%)	B (83-86%)	C (73-76%)	D (63-66%)	
A- (90-92%)	B- (80-82%)	C- (70-72%)	D- (60-62%)	

I will be rounding grades at the end of the term, using the .45 threshold. So, for example, a 92.45% will be rounded up to an A, but a 92.44% will remain as an A-.

## **ONLINE EXAMS**

You will have a total of two online multiple choice exams, which will (all together) account for a total of 40% of your overall grade in this course. The online exams will be on ELMS, and will be accessible from 12:00pm (noon) (EST) until 5:00pm (EST). Exams will be fifty multiple-choice questions, will be fifty minutes long, and will feature content from the lectures, class discussions, course readings, and any other activities that are assigned. All content (including stories told by instructor) mentioned in lectures or that appears on the PowerPoint slides are fair game for quizzes and exams, so take notes accordingly. Exams will **not** be cumulative. Exams will not be curved in the course. Exams are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does **not** apply to them. Exams for this course will be open-note and open-book. There will be no extra credit opportunities offered for this course. ***Here are the exact instructions that you will see on ELMS before starting each exam:*** "You will have fifty minutes to complete this exam, which consists of fifty multiple-choice questions. ADS students will get their accommodations. Please select the best answer for each question. There is only one correct answer. You may use your notes and any textbooks/readings during the exam, but you absolutely cannot use the internet or any other person as a resource while you are taking the exam. You may not take the exam with anyone else, discuss the exam with anyone else, or for any reason give or receive assistance on this exam. You will only see one question at a time. Do not close your browser for any reason once you open up this exam. Be sure you are on a computer that has a strong internet connection before opening the exam. Once you complete the exam, you will **not** see the correct answers. We will review questions that were commonly answered incorrectly as a class during lecture."

## **QUIZZES**

You will have a total of five multiple choice quizzes, which will (all together) account for a total of 15% of your overall grade. Quizzes are administered at the beginning of the lecture, and I will be sure to send an email to the whole class letting you know what the quiz will cover. Quizzes may be all multiple-choice, matching, short-answer, or any combination of these. You will have five minutes to complete each quiz. Content eligible to appear on quizzes includes content from the lectures, classroom discussions, course readings, and any other activities that are assigned. All content (including stories told by instructor) mentioned in lectures or that appears on the PowerPoint slides are fair game for quizzes, so take notes accordingly. If you arrive to class after the quiz has already started, you will have to complete the quiz with only the remaining time as the rest of the class has left. Students arriving after the quiz has been collected will not be allowed to take the quiz, and will consequently receive a zero. Please plan accordingly, as I will not make any exceptions to this policy. No late assignments will be accepted unless they are accompanied by a signed doctor's note and arrangements are discussed with me prior to the assignment deadline.

## **GROUP PROJECT**

You will have one group project, which will account for a total of 25% of your overall grade. Students will investigate a specific type of violence that our nation struggles with today or an ongoing violent conflict that our nation experiences. Students can select topics such as the prevalence of school shootings in America, or more general topics such as intimate partner violence, gang violence, racial violence, hate-motivated violence, mass shootings, genocide, or terrorism. Students will continuously research and investigate the violence type of their choice throughout the semester, so it is crucial to select a violent crime that is interesting to them. Students will demonstrate their ongoing engagement with their selected type of violence by learning as much as they can about it (via research using academic sources) and developing an original, unique intervention strategy to combat this particular type of violence. More details will be provided as time approaches.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Grades will not be based on attendance; rather, they will be based on **active** participation. Hence, you are expected to come to each lecture and contribute some sort of active behavior (examples: engaging in discussions, asking questions, answering questions etc.) during class. Simply showing up will not be a part of your grade. You are expected to arrive on time and remain throughout the entire duration of the lecture. Participation is an ongoing process; therefore, your participation grade will not be posted until the end of the semester. Participation points can only be earned during lectures, so if you are absent from a lecture, you will not earn participation points for that day. No extra credit will be offered in the course.

## **GRADE DISPUTES**

If you have questions or concerns about your grade on any assignment and believe I should review it, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Excused absences are those that are detailed in the University's course related policies linked on the second page of this syllabus. **All excusal notes are verified for accuracy.** In the event an excuse note is not able to be verified, students will be referred to the student honor council for providing false information to University officials as prohibited under Part 10(j) of the University of Maryland Student Code of Conduct. Students are required to notify your Discussion Leader or Professor prior to missing a discussion, assignment, quiz, or exam unless the circumstances of the absence prevent you from doing so. Missed assignments, quizzes, or exams must be completed within one week of the absence unless otherwise arranged.

- Lecture notes are not handed out. The student must solicit peers for lecture notes when they are unable to make it to class.
- If you miss a discussion due to an excused absence, it will be dropped from your overall discussion score. Students are allowed one self-excusal for missed discussions.
- Since the theory paper is something you have worked on over the course of many weeks, late submissions by excusal are only considered if your absence prevents you from finishing up a minimal amount of editing the day it is due or prevents you from accessing a computer to submit the paper on time. This hardship must be documented in order to be considered.
- Excusals for on-time completion of exams or quizzes must include documentation that indicates you were not able to participate in class activities during the time and day of the exam or quiz.
- Pre-planned excused absences must be communicated to me in advance of your absence and all work must be completed prior to your absence or on a mutually agreed-upon schedule.

## **MAKEUP POLICY**

Makeup assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences in which official documentation and prior notice is required. Exams are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Make up assignments such as quizzes and exams will cover the same content as the original assignment, but will be in a different format (hence, not multiple choice). ***Excused absences are:*** illness with a doctor's note, death of an immediate family member, and required court appearances. I will not accept a Health Center honor statement to verify an illness. If you go to the Health Center and a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. I must be notified via email ***prior*** to missing an exam for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you have a problem on the day of an exam, contact me immediately and I can advise you what to do. Even if this means you have to use your cell phone data to send me a quick email, be sure that you do not miss this step. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam prior to the scheduled exam date. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam.



## **DISABILITY SUPPORT**

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form. To receive documentation, please call ADS at 301-314-7682. This form must be presented to me no later than **Monday, January 31, 2022**. Please schedule a virtual meeting with me to discuss your accommodations so that we can make sure that we are both on the same page in regards to how accommodations will work with the structure of this specific course. ADS students who require additional time for exams are expected to take the exam during the same time period as the rest of the class and must plan their time so they complete the exam before the open window closes. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS.

## **CAMPUS POLICIES**

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit [www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty of any form will absolutely not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semesters' exams, quizzes, or other assignments. Also, under no circumstances are you allowed to create, purchase, or distribute commercially produced notes. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>

## **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

If you are unable to take exams due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by **Monday, January 31, 2022**. Failure to notify me by this date will result in a zero.

### **ATHLETES**

Official athletic schedules must be submitted to me by ***Monday, January 31, 2022***. Practices do not count as an excused absence; in cases of an excused absence (e.g., a game), students are expected to arrange with me makeup exams/assignments. Athletes who miss exams/assignments due to games or other commitments, yet never submitted an official schedule by ***Monday, January 31, 2022*** and never spoke with me, will receive a grade of zero for the relevant assignment.

### **NAMES, PRONOUNS, AND SELF-IDENTIFICATIONS**

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit [trans.umd.edu](https://trans.umd.edu) to learn more. Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow Terps.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

In the event that the university is closed due to inclement weather, please look at ELMS and check your emails for directions about how to proceed with the lecture for that week.

### **COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One way is to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Spring 2021 courses in April. Students can go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to complete their evaluations. Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access the posted results via Testudo's CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.

### **COPYRIGHT**

The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).



## CCJS 225: COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK & DATE:		TOPIC:	READING:
1	01/24	Syllabus & Course Introductions	
	01/26	Violence in American Society	Chapter 1
2	01/31	Measuring Crime in America	
	02/02	Theories of Violence	Chapter 2
	<b>Quiz #1 will be administered this week</b>		
3	02/07	IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS	
	02/09	Violent Crime	
4	02/14	Assault & Murder	Chapter 3
	02/16	Murder	Chapter 4
	<b>Quiz #2 will be administered this week</b>		
5	02/21	Serial Killers	Chapter 4
	02/23	Serial Killers	Chapter 4
6	02/28	IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS	
	03/02	<b>EXAM #1 – ONLINE</b> <b>Must be taken between 12:00pm and 5:00pm</b>	
7	03/07	Violence in the Home	Chapter 5
	03/09	Violence in the Home	Chapter 5

WEEK & DATE:		TOPIC:	ASSIGNMENTS:
8	03/14	Rape & Sexual Assault	Chapter 6
	03/16	Rape & Sexual Assault	Chapter 6
	Quiz #3 will be administered this week		
9	03/21	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK	
	03/23	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK	
10	03/28	Genocide	Chapter 11
	03/30	Genocide	Chapter 11
	Quiz #4 will be administered this week		
11	04/04	Terrorism	Chapter 10
	04/06	Terrorism	Chapter 10
12	04/11	Violence and Mental Illness	
	04/13	Violence and Mental Illness	
	Quiz #5 will be administered this week		
13	04/18	IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS	
	04/20	<b>EXAM #2 – ONLINE</b> <b>Must be taken between 12:00pm and 5:00pm</b>	
14	04/25	IN-CLASS TIME TO WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS	
	04/27	Group Presentations: 1 and 2	
	I will be collecting the worksheets for each group presentation at the end of each class session		

WEEK & DATE:		TOPIC:	ASSIGNMENTS:
15	05/02	Group Presentations: 3, 4, and 5	
	05/04	Group Presentations: 6, 7, and 8	
	<b>I will be collecting the worksheets for each group presentation at the end of each class session</b>		
16	05/09	Group Presentations: 9 and 10	
	<b>I will be collecting the worksheets for each group presentation at the end of each class session</b>		
<p>Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.</p>			